Extinction of animals from protected forest of Delhi

†1388. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of animals have become extinct from the protected forest of Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of the animals alongwith their species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) As per the report received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Delhi there have not been any recent extinction of animals in the protected forest of Delhi. The important animals found in the forests of Delhi include: Jackal (Canis aureus), Nilgai (Boselaphus tragocamelus), Small Indian Civet (Vivvericula indica), Porcupine (Hystrix indica), Rhesus macaque (Macaca mulatta), Small Indian Mongoose (Herpestes auropunctatus), Rufous-tailed Hare (Lepus nilgricollis), Jungle Cat (Felis chaus), Ruddy Mongoose (Herpestes smithi), Spiny-tailed Lizard (Uromastix hardwickii), etc.

Employment in forest activities

1389. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sustainable forest development can create more employment opportunities;

(b) if so, how many persons directly and indirectly have been getting employment in forest activities;

(c) the details of the forest area reduced during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the fresh steps taken to check tree cutting and forest fire in order to increase forest cover in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.